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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004073

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SE, NEA/NGA AND PM; DOD FOR OSD AND ISP; NSC  
FOR BRYZA. EUCOM FOR J3, J4 AND J5

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/25/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#), [MARR](#), [MOPS](#), [TU](#), [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH CABINET APPROVES USE OF BASES AND PORTS  
FOR OPERATIONS CONSISTENT WITH UNSCR 1483; EUCOM REQUEST TO  
STATION TANKERS AT INCIRLIK ALSO APPROVED

(U) Classified by Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Deutsch.  
Reasons: 1.5 (B and D).

11. (C) MFA DDG for the Americas Suna Ilicak told the DCM June 25 that the Turkish cabinet earlier this week had approved the use of Turkish bases and ports for humanitarian and reconstruction operations covered under UNSCR 1483. Ilicak said the Cabinet's decision came in the form of a decree, is now in effect, and does not require Parliamentary approval or an MOU. The decree applied to all allies and friendly nations. In terms of procedures, Ilicak said if the US wanted to use a specific base or port, the Embassy should follow "normal" procedures and submit a diplomatic note to the MFA, who would then coordinate a response with the Turkish General Staff (TGS). Pol-Mil officer sought clarification, noting that the US previously had conveyed requests for the use of Turkish bases/ports through military channels (i.e. a letter from the Office of Defense Cooperation to TGS), with the Embassy back-briefing the MFA. He reminded Ilicak that EUCOM's recent request to station 10 tankers and one ISR aircraft at Incirlik to support OEF and OIF missions was conveyed through military channels. Ilicak said the MFA would confer with the TGS and get back to us on whether the US should convey future requests via civilian (i.e. the MFA) or military (i.e. TGS) channels.

12. (C) The DCM asked if the Cabinet's decision covered EUCOM's request. Ilicak said that in her view the answer was "yes." However, TGS would have to make the final decision. Citing another hypothetical example, the DCM asked if the Cabinet's decree would apply to a request for US aircraft transporting goods and supplies to OCPA to stop at Incirlik and then proceed to Iraq. Ilicak said she believed the decree covered such an example.

13. (C) Later the same day, a TGS/J3 officer telephoned ODC to inform that, consistent with the Cabinet's decree, TGS had verbally approved EUCOM's request. The TGS officer said the formal approval in writing would be forthcoming. ODC intends to follow up with TGS in person June 26 to obtain more details.  
PEARSON